

Indiana Trails Advisory Board

December 6, 2012 - 3:00 PM

Rawhide Ranch

1292 Indiana 135, Nashville, IN 47448

12:00 PM (Eastern Time) Lunch and Tour

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Kevin Hardie – Environmental Groups
Yvette Rollins - Equestrians
Tim Calahan – Hikers
Melody Jones – Parks & Recreation Agencies
Len Neisler - Snowmobilers
Ric Edwards – Users with Disabilities

Proxies:

Roy Garrett – All Terrain Vehicle Users
Ryan Sweany – Four Wheel Drive Users
Rob Serbent - Mountain Bike Users
Richard Vonnegut - Pedestrians
Mark Kaley – Water Trail Users

DNR Staff:

Dale Brier
David Cox
Carman Jackson
Leah Kopp

Guests:

Derek Clifford
Chelsea Handler
Drew Handler
Joe Murrin
Marlo Sweany
Gary Williams - ABATE

Welcome

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins welcomed everyone. She thanked the staff at Rawhide Ranch for hosting the meeting and providing food and property tours.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of the September 2012 Minutes

Tim Calahan requested a change to the minutes. The change concerned the 2013 Trails Conference Planning (second paragraph's last sentence). It read, "People should be able to go through correct training." Much discussion occurred concerning the language. Tim asked Ric Edwards if there was somewhere a person could get appropriate training. Ric said the problem is training is difficult to be acquired. Tim recommended the original sentence be changed to read "People should be able to apply the appropriate standards." Melody Jones moved the minutes be accepted with the recommended change. Kevin Hardie seconded. Motion carried.

Department Report

David Cox thanked Rawhide Ranch and Yvette Rollins for hosting the meeting.

Equis - The DNR has former Penn Central Railroad property the state is holding for future trail development. As communities want to develop trail or trail facilities on these properties, the DNR works with communities to transfer the parcels to local units of government. Six additional communities are receiving property. They include DeKalb, Grant, and Parke counties, Kendallville, Rome City, and Shelbyville. For the March meeting, David will present a list of the counties with available parcels.

RTP Grants – Dale Brier reported RTP grant applications are ranked and rated by the Grants Section then brought before TAB for approval. Although TAB approves the recommendations in June, the DNR would like to approve the 2013 motorized awards as soon as possible. The DNR is requesting TAB's blessing on approving the motorized awards now.

Yvette asked Dale for clarification. Dale said RTP grants must include 30% for motorized projects and normally there are no outside applications. Therefore, the motorized portion typically is approved for the DNR properties of Redbird and Interlake. Since there are bids going out for projects at these properties, the money is needed now. David explained to the proxies one of the primary purposes for TAB is for the state to receive federal RTP money. RTP requires 30% for motorized projects, 30% for non-motorized projects, and 40% discretionary. Since 30% must be spent on motorized, Dale is simply requesting early approval for motorized funds so bids and projects can move forward this year to meet deadlines.

Dale explained the Interlake State Recreation Area needs money to build two remaining buildings (a maintenance building and a gatehouse). Approximately \$380K is needed which is part of a \$1.2 million budget. The DNR is ready to work on the bids in January so that is why these awards need to be approved early. The project should be completed by the end of 2013.

Roy Garrett moved to approve the 30% allocation. Len Neisler seconded. Motion carried with one member voting no. Tim Calahan explained his opposition saying he felt the 30% allocation seemed a little rushed and there was nothing to look at or evaluate. Roy Garrett said he knows what is going on down there and described the progress. Tim then said he would change his no to abstain. Yvette said she would like a simple one page analysis of what TAB just approved to be sent to the board. Much more discussion ensued about the \$380K dollars TAB had approved.

Carman Jackson explained the buildings on the property will include a 6500 ft maintenance building. It will house a laborer's or supervisor's office, maintenance office, ADA accessible restrooms with showers, a vehicle workshop, and a general workshop which will have heat and air conditioning. This will be approximately one third of the building. The other two thirds of the building will be an open vehicle and hazmat storage area. The office side of the building will have upstairs storage. The project will also include ¾ mile of paved entrance and a 2500 ft office gatehouse. The gatehouse will include a gift shop, nature center, conference room, two offices for staff, restrooms, and break rooms. Parking should be available for 25 vehicles with 10 of those accommodating a truck and trailer.

Kevin Hardie said it was good to know what was voted on. He didn't want to go back to his user group to report he voted to spend \$380K with no idea of what it was for. Tim Calahan said it was a great

project. What he objected to was being blindsided with no information up front. Roy Garrett asked what the projected total RTP amount would be. Dale said it should be \$1.2-\$1.4 million and explained the breakdown of where the money comes from. More discussion ensued.

Yvette asked members to bring recommendations to the March meeting concerning any changes with the current RTP guidelines. She wants a review of the application use. She said there would need to be much communication between TAB and the DNR for any regulation changes. All guidelines are online in the RTP Grant Manual. Richard Vonnegut discussed the layers of communication that must go on for any project and how it can be a back and forth battle. Yvette asked if TAB could have a statement about what the DNR is doing with guideline changes. Dale replied anyone with specific questions about guidelines should contact Bob Bronson, the Grants Section Chief. Melody Jones wants a link about TAB oriented laws and rules.

Old Business

Hoosier Outdoor Experience statistics sheets were passed out. Various TAB members commented about the number of people their user groups counted or estimated at their activities.

2013 Trails Conference Planning

Yvette announced the conference location, Lawrence County Recreation Park, is wonderful place. Camping is available. There are nearby facilities in Bloomington and Bedford for people who don't want to camp. LCRP has 400 acres of approved and unapproved trails. Trail work will be allowed and encouraged for hands on training.

It will be an experience for trail enthusiasts to work together for the same cause. The date is the weekend of November 7-10. Dale said he thought the conference was going to be held at Interlake. Yvette explained TAB unanimously decided after much discussion at the September meeting to move the venue to LCRP. She personally believes Interlake would not be ready.

Yvette discussed the conference and what is going to be covered. Carman asked how people staying in Bloomington or Bedford were expected to get to the conference location. Yvette said we might have some out of state speakers but the conference will be geared toward Hoosiers. Carman said she didn't stay for the September meeting at Redbird and this has really changed from what was originally discussed. Yvette explained the focus is on trail user groups which overlap in many areas but don't pool resources effectively. A conference focus will be on more effectively working together.

Trail sustainability and trail certification/qualification were discussed. Carman suggested they look at national standards or commonalities. Melody Jones suggested the conference needs to look at how this can be supported statewide. Yvette said funding is an important topic that can be included. She said communication and grant writing sessions will help address the funding topic. This includes how various funds can work to fund a project. Mark Kaley suggested water trails be part of the conference too. Yvette said committees should start working at the beginning of the year. A save the date postcard needs to be mailed out. She suggested information could be shared at the Boat, Sport and Travel Show.

The conference can be limited to 100 people. Yvette doesn't think it will be difficult to get 100 attendees from the user groups. Mark Kaley, with Renfro Productions, said there would be conference rooms available to the group at the Boat, Sport and Travel Show. He also commented that the first weekend of the show will be dedicated to paddling with good speakers presenting talks.

David said committees should be meeting in early 2013 and if anyone knows a prospective speaker they need to contact Jeff Fetterer. Gary Williams said if anyone wants to check out the LCRP property to let him know. David reminded TAB this needs to be a very successful conference. It's a TAB responsibility and not the DNR to make this successful. Committees need to give reports at the March meeting.

New Business

Board Nominations (All Terrain Vehicle Users, Equestrians, Four Wheel Drive Users, Pedestrians, Snowmobile Users) - David reported nominations are being accepted from December 1, 2012 through January 7, 2013. He encouraged board members to help get the message out to their groups and the general public. One third of the Trails Advisory Board is up for nomination each year. All of the information needed is on the website and it's up to date. After nominations are closed, each nominee will receive a questionnaire to be completed and returned. The appointments will be made by DNR Director Rob Carter.

Safety Committee – A safety committee was formed earlier this year. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the committee let David know. This will cover safety of all types of trails.

TAB Board Position Discussion – Trail Running – This issue was placed on the agenda at the request of trail running enthusiast Terry Fletcher. Although Terry did not attend the meeting, discussion still occurred on the subject. Indiana trail runners have not yet formally organized but are interested in obtaining a board seat for this user group. David emphasized that TAB is up to 15 members and is one of the largest trails advisory boards in the nation. At what point do we stay put and stop growing David asked? He said TAB needs to consider all aspects of a larger board. Roy Garrett said TAB already has enough foot trail positions represented on the board. He also said he thinks the state has plenty of trails for trail runners to utilize. Tim Calahan said he would really like to think about it and then talk about it at the next meeting. Ryan Sweany asked if there was a significant difference in expectation. Is there any kind of infrastructure that isn't being addressed? Yvette recommended the issue be tabled until Terry or another representative from the trail running group could be present at the meeting. Rob Serbent commented that mountain bikers would love to see another group join just to get their volunteers. Kevin Hardie wanted to know their comments on adventure racing so he felt this should be tabled until the March meeting. Kevin moved to table. Ryan Sweany seconded. Motion carried.

User Group Reports

Yvette asked all groups to submit event dates to her.

All Terrain Vehicle Users – Roy Garrett reported their group would be present at the Boat, Sport, and Travel Show in February. ATV and off-road motorcycle training will take place this spring at Lawrence County Recreation Park.

Environmental Groups – Kevin Hardie reported that a new greenway segment is being built in Indianapolis which will bring the White River Trail through a very urban and industrial area. The 25th anniversary of the White River clean-up will be in 2013.

Equestrians - Yvette Rollins stated they completed a week long clean-up in Brown County covering 86 miles of trail. Due to Chelsea's death in the park, they looked at trails a lot differently than in the past. They looked for trees with a potential to fall in high wind. Junior ITRA members also helped. Indiana Trail Riders received two grants totaling \$62K to put in a campground in Versailles for equestrians. There was an incident at Deam Lake involving mountain bikers and horses. This shows the need for safety education.

Four Wheel Drive Users - Ryan Sweany reported the Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association hosted several Toys for Tots events in 2012. One was held at Interlake.

Hikers –Tim Calahan said the Tecumseh Trail Marathon had approximately 700 registered runners who trekked 26 miles. There is much interest from people in trail run activities. The 3rd Saturday each month is trail work day.

Mountain Biker Users – Rob Serbent reported they submitted their RTP NEPA paperwork for O'Bannon Woods SP. Brown County is looking at finalization of trail routes to ease traffic. The Mid-West Mountain Bike Summit will be held in May at Brown County SP.

Parks and Recreation Agencies– Melody Jones said the IPRA conference will be the 3rd week in January at Bloomington. She said Pete Fritz will be doing a presentation on Complete Streets. They will be reaching out to all people in the state to form partnerships.

Pedestrians – Richard Vonnegut reported the old Big 4 Bridge at Louisville is being transformed into a pedestrian bridge between Indiana and Kentucky. He would like to see a bicycle ride from the bridge to Indianapolis or Seymour. Hoosier Rails to Trails is building an 18 mile rustic trail from Bedford towards Williams.

Snowmobilers – Len Neisler said "Think Snow". The ISA ride-in will be January 24-27 in Michigan. They are trying to make arrangements for an informal ride in February over the holiday weekend. It will be a 35 mile ride from South Bend to Four Seasons Casino in Michigan. He announced the ISA is raffling an ATV and he has tickets with him.

Users with Disabilities – Ric Edwards had nothing to report.

Water Trail Users – Mark Kaley had nothing to report.

Announcements

National Bike Summit – March 4-7, 2013

American Trails International Trails Symposium – April 14-17, 2013

Hoosier Outdoor Experience – September 2013

Mid-America Trails and Greenways Conference – October 2013 (Chicago)

Future Meeting Dates

March 7 - Fort Harrison State Park

Adjournment

Kevin Hardie moved for adjournment. Roy Garrett seconded. Motion carried.

